

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02344 131422Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2344

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: "PIONEERS" AND CHOU EN-LAI

1. NOV 12 PEOPLE'S DAILY (PD) AGAIN GIVES PROMINENCE TO A LIBERATION ARMY DAILY (LAD) ARTICLE, DEVOTING ENTIRE SECOND PAGE TO A NOV 5 LAD COMMENTARY TITLED "THE SERIOUS STRUGGLE SURROUNDING THE FILM 'PIONEERS.'" THE COMMENTARY IS PRECEDED BY A PD EDITORIAL NOTE COMMENDING THE ARTICLE TO ITS READERS FOR ITS THOROUGHNESS AND ITS REVELATIONS ABOUT THE TRUE PURPOSE IN THE GANG OF FOUR'S OPPOSITION TO PUBLIC RELEASE OF "PIONEERS," AND CLOSING WITH THE HOPE THAT MANY MORE ARTICLES OF THIS NATURE WILL APPEAR DURING THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN.

2. WHILE THE LAD COMMENTARY MENTIONS THE GANG OF FOUR'S OPPOSITION TO THE CORRECT PARTY LINE AS ONE FACTOR IN ITS OPPOSITION TO "PIONEERS," IT DEVOTES CONSIDERABLY MORE ATTENTION TO THE GANG'S HATRED OF CHOU EN-LAI:..."THE DECLARATION THAT THEY WERE GOING TO INVESTIGATE (THE FILM'S) 'BACKGROUND' WAS A SPEARHEAD POINTED STRAIGHT AT OUR BELOVED PREMIER CHOU. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT IT WAS PREMIER CHOU WHO CALLED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 02344 131422Z

ON THE CHINESE PEOPLE TO STUDY CHAIRMAN MAO'S 'ON PRACTICE' AND 'ON

CONTRADICTION.' THE TACHING PEOPLE'S RELIANCE ON THE 'TWO ESSAYS' TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES WAS A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO PREMIER CHOU'S CALL. THE FILM'S TREATMENT OF THE URBAN-RURAL COMBINATION IN MINING AREAS, OF THE WORKER-PEASANT COMBINATION, ETC, ARE ALSO PRINCIPLES SET OUT BY PREMIER CHOU. ALL OF THIS WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN BY CHINA'S ARMYMEN AND PEOPLE, LOYALLY AFFECTIONATE TO PREMIER CHOU. THE GANG OF FOUR...ALWAYS HATED PREMIER CHOU...THEY TRIED TO ENGENDER HOSTILITY BETWEEN THE GREAT PROLETARIAN REVOLUTIONARY, OUR BELOVED PREMIER CHOU, AND THE PARTY CENTRAL HEADED BY CHAIRMAN MAO."

3. THE COMMENTARY CONTINUES WITH A PAEN TO CHOU, WHO "FOLLOWING CHAIRMAN MAO'S INSTRUCTIONS, ENTHUSIASTICALLY PLANTED, CULTIVATED AND PROTECTED THE RED FLAG AT TACHING. PREMIER CHOU RESOLUTELY CARRIED OUT CHAIRMAN MAO'S PRINCIPLE OF THE 'THREE DO'S AND THREE DON'TS,' WAS PURE AND LOYAL, OPEN AND UPRIGHT, AS THE SUN AND MOON CROSSING THE HEAVENS, AS A RIVER FLOWING THROUGH THE LAND...THE GANG OF FOUR HAD TO VIEW PREMIER CHOU AS A GIGANTIC OBSTACLE TO USURPING THE PARTY AND STEALING AWAY THE NATION..."

4. COMMENT: AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE MASSIVE LAYING OF WREATHS TO CHOU LAST APRIL IN PEKING AND SOME OTHER CITIES, THE LATE PREMIER'S MEMORY AND POLICY LEGACY REMAIN POTENT POLITICAL FORCES, AND IT IS OBVIOUSLY IN THE NEW REGIME'S INTEREST TO CLAIM LEGITIMACY FROM CHOU AS WELL AS FROM MAO. THE FILM "PIONEERS" IS ABOUT THE "SELF-RELIANT" DEVELOPMENT OF THE TA CHING OILFIELD IN THE YEARS BEFORE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. IT HAS BOTH ANTI-U.S. AND ANTI-SOVIET MATERIAL, BUT THAT IS PROBABLY NOT WHY THE RADICALS WANTED TO SUPPRESS IT. THE FILM WAS ISSUED IN THE SPRING OF 1975, PRESUMABLY WITH THE SPONSORSHIP OF CHOU AND TENG HSIAO-PING, AND ITS THEMES SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SET BY CHOU AT THE JANUARY 1975 NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. THE FILM IMPLICITLY CHALLENGED THE RADICALS' CONTENTION THAT CHAIRMAN MAO'S POLICIES WERE NEVER PROPERLY CARRIED OUT BEFORE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. THE ATTENTION TO THE FILM NOW, AND THIS ARTICLE'S TREATMENT OF CHOU, INDICATE THAT ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST THE GANG OF FOUR WILL BE SABOTAGE OF CORRECT POLICIES FOR CHINA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT..

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PAGE 03 PEKING 02344 131422Z

PROBABLY INCLUDING CERTAIN OF THE POLICIES FOR WHICH THE RADICALS NOT LONG AGO WERE CRITICISING TENG HSIAO-PING.

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